

**TEMPE PARKS & RECREATION
SUMMER ADULT SOFTBALL
HOT TOPIC UPDATE
MAY 10, 2005**

START OF GAME PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

Each season we receive complaints from teams that feel they are losing minutes, at the start of games, because the umpires start the clock before the teams are ready for the first pitch. This is a double edged sword - the responsibility falls both on the umpires and the home team.

The Adult Softball League Rules state: *The umpire will on two occasions ask the home team to take the field. After the second request the umpires will take the field and instruct both teams that the clock will start. It is the home team's responsibility to take the field in a timely manner.*

If the umpires are not following the stated procedure we request that teams contact the Parks & Recreation office by e-mail or phone the following day.

At the same time, remember the home team's responsibility to take the field in a timely manner. Last season I fielded a start time complaint so I went out and observed the start of a game. The umpires followed the procedures and it took the home team two and a half minutes to take the field and throw the first pitch.

One other note: the Dawson Field scoreboards - the time starts at 55 minutes and immediately changes to 54 minutes and 59 seconds to

begin the countdown. Teams feel they have already lost a minute when in fact the seconds are not seen on the scoreboard until the last minute of play.

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